



News Release

WISCONSIN AIR NATIONAL GUARD

128th Air Refueling Wing
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

More Air National Guard members called to active duty in Milwaukee

About 30 more members of the Wisconsin Air National Guard's 128th Air Refueling Wing have been activated and will depart Mitchell International Airport today (March 19) for duty overseas. This group is comprised of pilots, air refueling specialists, aircraft maintenance personnel, and support staff. The mobilization will be for an initial period of one year.

The refueling wing currently has about 215 members serving on active duty to support the ongoing war on terrorism including about 50 members of the 128th Security Forces Squadron who have been on continuous active duty in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM since September 30, 2001. The 128th Air Refueling Wing as a whole has not been activated.

The 900-member unit is based at General Mitchell International Airport, Milwaukee and flies the KC-135R Stratotanker. The primary mission of the 128th Air Refueling Wing is to provide midair refueling support.

The activation and deployment is part of the partial mobilization of the Guard and Reserve ordered by President Bush in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. More than 2,300 Wisconsin Army and Air Guard personnel are presently serving on active duty under the partial mobilization, supporting Operations ENDURING FREEDOM (overseas U.S. military operations to combat terrorism) and NOBLE EAGLE (homeland defense and security operations in the continental United States).

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Note to editors and news directors: Media interested in covering the departure should contact Lt. Col. Jim Waters (414) 944-8539 to arrange access to the base.